

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Don't Frack With Our Water

LEGISLATURE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES SPENCER'S BILL PROHIBITING THE SALE AND USE OF RADIOACTIVE FRACKING WASTE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY!

Riverhead, NY – Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer, M.D. (D-Centerport), and his colleagues are celebrating the passage of IR 1117-2014, [a local law prohibiting the sale and use of hydraulic fracturing byproducts!](#) The resolution, which was sponsored by Legislator Spencer and co-sponsored by Legislators Hahn, Calarco, Anker, and Schneiderman, is expected to be signed by County Executive Bellone later this month. This bill is yet another step the County is taking to protect public health and safeguard our waters from the dangers of hydraulic fracturing waste.

"This legislation is important because we rely on our sole source aquifer for our drinking water," stated Legislator Spencer. "The use of hydrofracking waste could have serious environmental impacts in Suffolk County. I am grateful to my colleagues for supporting this important legislation because it will help to ensure the security of our water and our public health. I especially want to thank Legislators Hahn and Calarco, who previously passed legislation which protects our wastewater treatment facilities and County roads from fracking waste and provided a foundation for this bill that protects all residents and facilities in Suffolk County."

Spencer's law, which will take effect 60 days after it is signed by the County Executive, does three instrumental things:

- Prohibits the introduction of natural gas waste into any waste water treatment facility within the County of Suffolk or operated by the County of Suffolk.
- Prohibits the sale of natural gas waste in Suffolk County.
- Prohibits the application of natural gas waste on any road or real property located in Suffolk County.

"This tough protective law sends a clear, powerful message to other counties and to Albany – no dumping fracking waste in Suffolk County! All counties across our state should follow Suffolk's lead and protect public health and our environment from the harmful reality of fracking waste," said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "Fracking waste

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contains a toxic cocktail of chemicals and can even contain radioactive elements. Keeping this contaminated waste stream out of Suffolk will provide us with long-term protection for our water and land resources, and our health. Congratulations to Legislator Doc Spencer for understanding this new threat and crafting legislation to protect us from it.”

The resolution builds upon past hydrofracking resolutions implemented in Suffolk in 2012, and will further strengthen the measures already in place by expanding the scope to include **ALL** roads, properties, and sewage treatment plants in Suffolk County; not just County-owned and operated facilities.

“Long Island’s unique and dynamic ecosystem is also one of the world’s most fragile,” said Legislator Kara Hahn, sponsor of the original fracking ban that prohibited acceptance of hydraulic fracturing wastewater at Suffolk County sewage treatment facilities. “The chemicals used during the hydrofracking process are undisclosed and their impact on all who live here is unknown. This bill will ensure that Suffolk County’s residents and sensitive environment do not become a testing lab for the potential side effects associated with these waste products.”

Commonly known as “hydrofracking,” hydraulic fracturing is a technology used to extract fossil fuels that have collected in layers of porous rock. Hydrofracking involves the high pressure injection of freshwater mixed with other compounds and sand through a well into a rock formation. This method causes the rock to fracture and release natural gas which then can be processed and used as an energy source.

“There are a number of byproducts as a result of hydrofracking that are harmful to our health,” stated Majority Leader Rob Calarco. “By banning these products from our roadways, from our wastewater treatment plants and now their sale anywhere in Suffolk County, we can prevent those chemicals from affecting the health of our residents. I fully support Legislator Spencer on this initiative and I am proud to have voted for this bill.”

In recent years, hydrofracking has become increasingly popular across our nation, and has raised concerns for public health and water quality. A portion of the highly toxic byproduct of fracturing, known as “flowback water,” returns to the surface with the gas and additional pollutants. Contaminants that are found in the flowback water include volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, high salinity brine, and radioactive elements. This has left municipalities with the question of how to dispose of these dangerous byproducts. Fortunately for Suffolk residents, these byproducts will not be housed, treated, or sold in our county.

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